

QUICK QUOTES

August 5, 2023



JUSTIN THOMAS (-9)

Q. Justin how would you characterize the round today?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I played well. I mean, my only bogey I feel like was a pretty -- not a very difficult hole, but yeah, I felt like I left a couple out there. But again, I had great control of the ball. I didn't drive it as well as I would have liked on the back nine. You know, when I got out of position, I feel like I did a great job of keeping it underneath the hole in a great spot to get it up and down, which I feel like I do well when I'm playing well. I mean, I feel like I am. You know, I'm excited for tomorrow to be a cool opportunity and just try to go play as well as I can and see how many birdies we can make.

Q. With the situation you're in, will you be watching some of the leaderboards out there and possibly change strategy?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I don't think. I mean, I've said it before, it's hard to avoid the leaderboards, but I mean, the only way I feel I would change strategy would be in a situation where I needed to birdie the last two holes or I needed to birdie 18 or something. The hope is to go play really well tomorrow and see how close to the lead we can get, and if I do that, then should be fine.

It's very similar to Q-School. I didn't go into the final stage of Q-School trying to finish 45th, I went there trying to win a golf tournament. If I just came up short, then it was going to be plenty to qualify. It's a very different but somewhat similar situation here.

Q. Are you OK with the ruling on 9?

JUSTIN THOMAS: What's that?

Q. Were you OK with the ruling on 9?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I was. I fully -- it's one of those, like you get rulings sometimes where you almost feel bad that it's happening, and I truly felt like that was going to be one of those scenarios. It's just weird. It was between me and the hole and I just had situations before where stuff like that's happened. It's not necessarily in your way, but because it's between you, you get relief.

It was just because the tree was there. It was one of those things like you kind of have your tail tucked between your legs asking for relief because it would only happen in a situation like this. But at the same time, I'm always going to ask because you never know, I could have gotten a drop and would have been able to hit on the green. So worth a shot.



Q. What's it like playing with this extra pressure on you that's not about the golf tournament, it's about future things, Playoffs, Ryder Cup? What's that feeling like? You seem to be doing OK.

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah, it's nerve wracking, but it's a different kind of nerves. I mean, it's a lot harder than trying to win a golf tournament in my opinion. I think when you're trying to win a tournament you're there and if you don't win it's a bummer, but you still had a great week kind of thing.

If I just don't get it done for what I need to get done this week, then it sucks and my year's over.

But, you know, fortunately for me, I've been in some tough situations before with majors, trying to win tournaments and team events where I feel like I've had a lot of pressure on me. Hopefully I'll be able to, you know, kind of use some of those past experiences for tomorrow if I'm feeling any of it.

Q. I was going to ask, when you're on the course, are those thoughts, like the future thoughts, ones that you try to cut out?

JUSTIN THOMAS: Yeah.

Q. So it's not like motivation or anything?

JUSTIN THOMAS: No. That's hurt me all year. I mean, I want to make the Ryder Cup team so bad. I mean, it's so important to me. I mean, I legitimately would rather make the Ryder Cup than the Playoffs, which is really, really messed up to say, but it's just the truth.

But because of that, I think that's why I played so poorly the last month and a half or two months. Like it's just I'm putting so much pressure on myself to play well, it's very similar to what happened to me in 2016. I felt like I started to try so hard at the end of the year when if I just would have kept doing what I was doing and trust my ability and my talent, then it could have been good enough. Hopefully I learn from my mistake and play well tomorrow and just see what happens.

Q. Would you consider doing something crazy like go to Europe? Is that like even in the cards? Let's say you have a good tournament but miss the Playoffs by one, would you ever, in terms of like showing I'm in good form, I can play in the Ryder Cup?

JUSTIN THOMAS: I don't know. I just want to go play well tomorrow and then go from there.

